

Claims

- [c1] An appliance base for a washing machine of the type having a wash tub and a mechanism extending below the wash tub, the base comprising:
a tray having a substantially flat rectangular bottom panel for supporting the washing machine; and
an insert disposed within the tray and having a centrally disposed opening for receiving and securing the washing machine mechanism.
- [c2] The appliance base of claim 1 wherein the insert is formed from a cut and folded blank.
- [c3] The appliance base of claim 2 wherein the tray further comprises four corners and the insert comprises four legs extending radially from the centrally disposed opening toward the four corners of the tray, each leg comprising a pair of downwardly angled panels connected along a fold line, each downwardly angled panel sloping downward from the diagonal fold line to an attachment panel that is affixed to the tray.
- [c4] The appliance base of claim 3 wherein the fold lines are aligned with the diagonals of the bottom panel.
- [c5] The appliance base of claim 4 wherein the attachment panels are connected to the downwardly angled panels along fold lines.

- [c6] The appliance base of claim 5 wherein each downwardly angled panel is attached to an adjacent downwardly angled panel on an adjacent leg by a fold line.

- [c7] The appliance base of claim 6 wherein each fold line is aligned with an orthogonally bisecting line of the tray bottom panel.

- [c8] The appliance base of claim 2 wherein the downwardly angled panels define the centrally disposed opening that receives and secures the washing machine mechanism.

- [c9] The appliance base of claim 8 wherein the centrally disposed opening is raised above the tray bottom panel.

- [c10] The appliance base of claim 2 wherein the tray further comprises side panels connected to and extending upward from the bottom panel.

- [c11] The appliance base of claim 10 further comprising members adhered to the tray and wherein the members, bottom panel and side panels define slots for receiving vertical support posts.

- [c12] The appliance base of claim 11 wherein the washing machine has feet and the members have openings formed therein for receiving the washing machine feet.

- [c13] The appliance base of claim 2 wherein the tray and insert are formed from corrugated board.

- [c14] A base for a machine of the type having a portion centrally

suspended below another portion of the machine, the base comprising:

a load bearing tray having a substantially flat rectangular bottom panel for supporting the machine, and

side panels connected to and extending upward from the bottom panel; and an insert disposed within the tray, the insert formed from a blank that, when folded in accordion fashion, assumes a substantially pyramid shape defining a centrally disposed opening raised above the bottom panel and configured to receive and secure the centrally suspended portion of the machine.